

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY-PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

that my citizenship, residence and post office address are as stated below; that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor(if only one is named below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled :

THREADED JOINT FOR PIPES, the specification of which

x was filed as United States application
Number 10/626,638 on July 25, 2003
and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

x was filed as PCT international application
Number PCT/JP02/07053 on July 11, 2002
and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

| Prior Foreign Application(s) | | | Priority Claimed | |
|---|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| <u>2001-213469</u> (Number) | <u>Japan</u> (Country) | <u>13 JULY 2001</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <u>X</u> Yes | <u> </u> No |
| <u> </u> (Number) | <u> </u> (Country) | <u> </u> (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <u> </u> Yes | <u> </u> No |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>PCT/JP02/07053</u> (Application Ser.No.) | <u>July 11, 2002</u> (Filing Date) | <u>pending</u> (Status) (patented,pending,abandoned) |
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Each undersigned applicant hereby appoints **CONRAD J. CLARK (Registration No. 30,340)** and **CHRISTOPHER W. BRODY (Registration No. 33,613)**, as his attorneys with full power of substitution to prosecute the subject application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Send Correspondence to: **CLARK & BRODY, 1750 K Street, NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20006;**
Telephone:202-835-1111; Facsimile: 202-835-1755.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full name of Sole or First Inventor: Jun MAEDA

Inventor's Signature: *Jun Maeda* Date: *October 22, 2003*

Residence: Ashiya-shi, Hyogo

Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: c/o SUMITOMO METAL INDUSTRIES, LTD., 5-33, Kitahama 4-chome, Chuo-ku,
Osaka-shi, Osaka 541-0041 Japan